

with again in that way, until the time of the revolution.

I have a word to say upon the subject of the confederation. As every one knows, the State of Maryland was the very last State that assented to the severance of the connexion with Great Britain. The State of Maryland and the other colonies took up arms to maintain their rights under the Government of Great Britain. They thought that by resistance the British Parliament and the British King would come to their senses. North Carolina took the lead in May, 1776, passed a Declaration of Independence and organized a government. Virginia, in June, declared its independence and organized a State Government. New Hampshire, as far back as 1775, had organized a State Government.

It is well known that at first Maryland restricted her delegates from uniting with the delegates from the other Colonies in a Declaration of Independence, and it was only a few days before the 4th July, 1776, that the Convention, then sitting at Annapolis, removed the restrictions, and authorized them to concur with the other United Colonies in declaring the United Colonies *free and independent States*, and in forming such further compact and confederation, &c., &c., as should be adjudged necessary for securing the liberties of America, &c., *provided the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police of this Colony be reserved to the people thereof.*"

And on the 6th July, 1776, in a formal "Declaration of the Delegates of Maryland," in Convention at Annapolis, after reciting the causes which impelled them to empower their delegates in Congress, as aforesaid, with the proviso aforesaid, they add: "No ambitious views, no desire of independence induced the people of Maryland to form an union with the other Colonies. To procure an exemption from parliamentary taxation, and to continue to the legislatures of these Colonies the sole and exclusive right of regulating their internal polity, was our original and only motive. To maintain inviolate our liberties and to transmit them unimpaired to posterity, was our duty and first wish; our next, to continue dependent on Great Britain. For the truth of these assertions we appeal to that Almighty Being who is emphatically styled the searcher of hearts, and from whose omniscience nothing is concealed."

(The hour having expired, the hammer fell.)

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. I hope the same courtesy will be extended to the gentleman from Somerset that has been extended to other members, and I move that he be allowed fifteen minutes more.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset, proceeded:

I shall not attempt to proceed with the argument. I will read, without comment, the following extracts:

"At the revolution, the sovereignty devolved on the people, but they are sovereign without subjects, (unless the African slaves among us may be so called,) and have none to govern but themselves; the citizens of America are equal as fellow citizens, and as joint tenants in the sovereignty." 2 Dallas' Rep. 419.—*Chief Justice Jay, U. S. Court.*

Chief Justice Wilson's works, 3 vol., pp. 292, 293:

"The truth is, that in our government, the supreme, absolute, and uncontrollable power remains in the people. As our Constitutions are superior to our legislatures, so the people are superior to our Constitutions. Indeed the superiority in this last instance is much greater, for the people possess over our Constitutions control in act, as well as right."

\* \* \* "The consequence is, that the people may change the Constitution whenever and however they please. *This is a right of which no positive institutions can deprive them.*"

"These important truths are far from being merely speculative; we at this moment speak and deliberate under their immediate and benign influence. To the operation of these truths we are to ascribe the scene, hitherto unparalleled, which America now exhibits to the world, a gentle, a peaceful, a voluntary, and a deliberate transition from one Constitution of government to another, (from the Confederation to the Constitution of the United States.) In other parts of the world, the idea of revolution in government is, by a mournful and indissoluble association, connected with the idea of wars, and all the calamities attendant on wars."

"But happy experience teaches us to view such revolutions in a very different light—to consider them as progressive steps in improving the knowledge of government and increasing the happiness of society and mankind."

"Oft have I viewed, with silent pleasure and admiration, the force and prevalence through the United States of this principle—that the supreme power resides in the people, and that they never part with it. It may be called the *panacea* in politics. If the error be in the legislature, it may be corrected by the Constitution; if in the Constitution, it may be corrected by the people. There is a remedy therefore for every distemper in government, if the people are not wanting to themselves."

Again in Chief Justice Wilson's lectures, 1 vol., p. 21, he says:

"A revolution principle certainly is, and certainly should be, taught as a principle of the Constitution of the United States, and of every State of the Union. This revolution principle—that the sovereign power residing in the people, they may change their Constitution and government whenever they please—is not a principle of discord, rancor, or war; it is a principle of melioration, contentment, and peace."